



Folsom Saves
IT'S OUR NATURE

All About Lawn Care

A lawn Care Primer for Folsom Homeowners

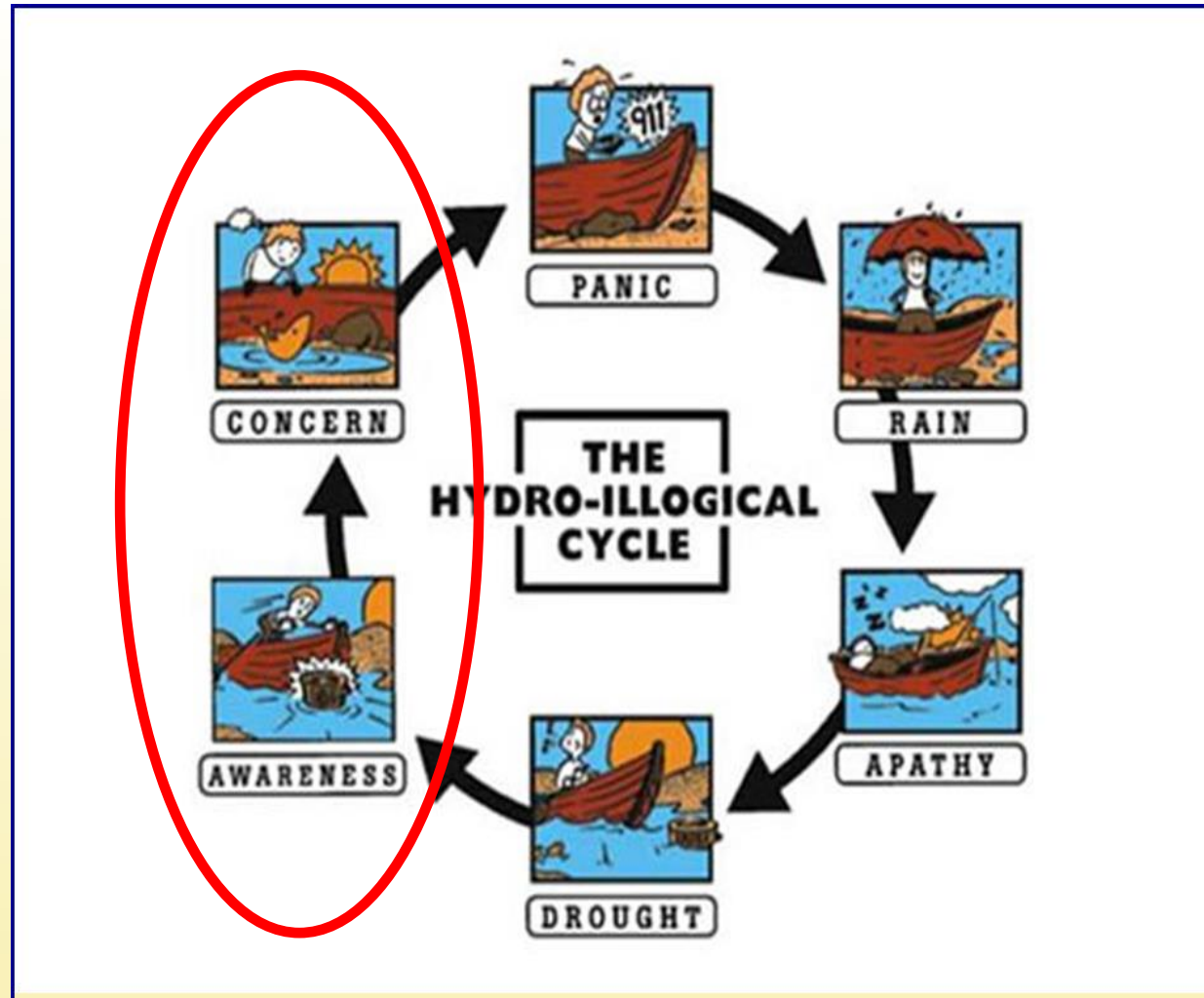




Drought

No Drought

And repeat!



Break the Cycle

The BIG Point

There are no simple/universal formulas for lawn care!

BUT...

There are easy to understand concepts that make lawn care simple and efficient.

Every landscape, lawn, and irrigation system is different





So What's the Deal with Lawns?

A post-war symbol of prosperity



Lawns

• Why have turf?

- Children
- Animals
- Play/Entertainment
- Aesthetically pleasing

• How much do you need?

- Just enough



Lawns **Pros**

- **Temperature reduction**
- **Dust control**
- **Consumes carbon dioxide**
- **Produces oxygen**
- **Visually pleasing**

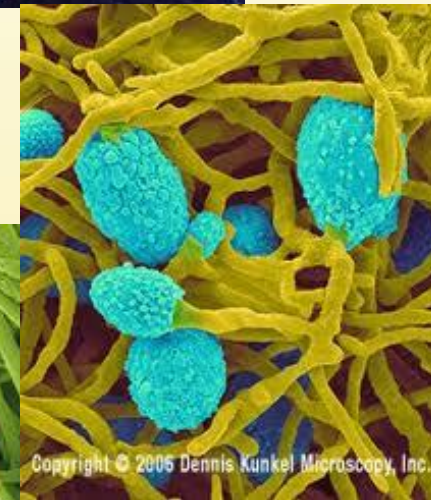
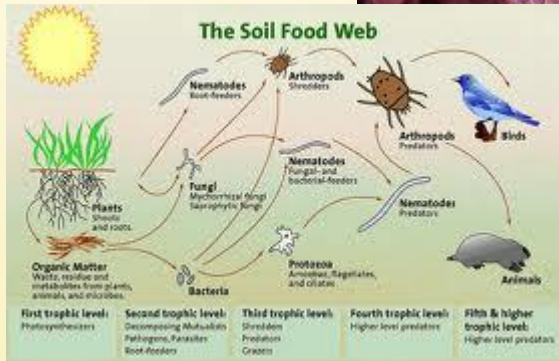
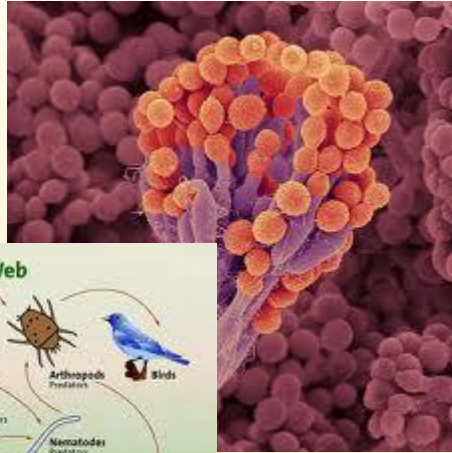
Cons

- **Thirsty**
- **Labor intensive**
- **Resource intensive**
- **Uses chemicals**
 - **Fertilizer**
 - **Pesticide**
 - **Herbicide**

And... Grass just feels good!

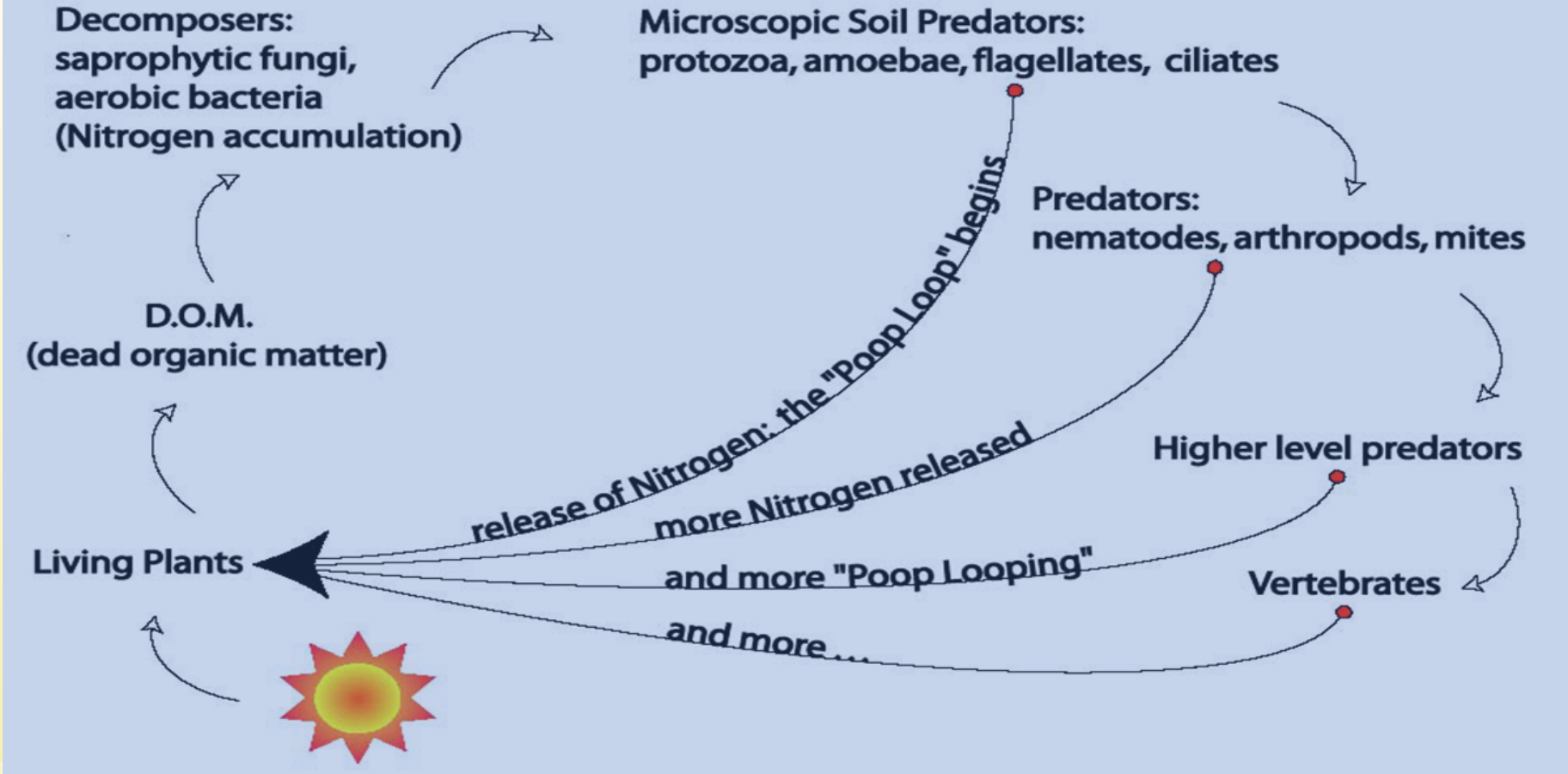


Soil is Alive!



THE POOP LOOP

Based on information from Dr. Elaine Ingham and Soil Foodweb, Inc.
by Alane O'Rielly Weber, Botanical Art
(c) 2004



The Moral of the Soil Story

Happy Turf Needs Happy Soil



Lawn Maintenance



Maintenance makes the difference

IPM

- Integrated Pest Management
 - Why do I have a problem?
 - Is it my fault?
 - What can I change?
 - Do the least harm
 - Save the worst for last



Weeds!



Weeds!

- Less than 10% - not a problem
- Why are the weeds there
- What can we change to discourage weeds
- Weeds can be indications of poor soil conditions
- Healthy lawns, from good practices, will shade out weeds
- IPM - Integrated Pest Management



Mechanical



Before



Chemical

Mowing



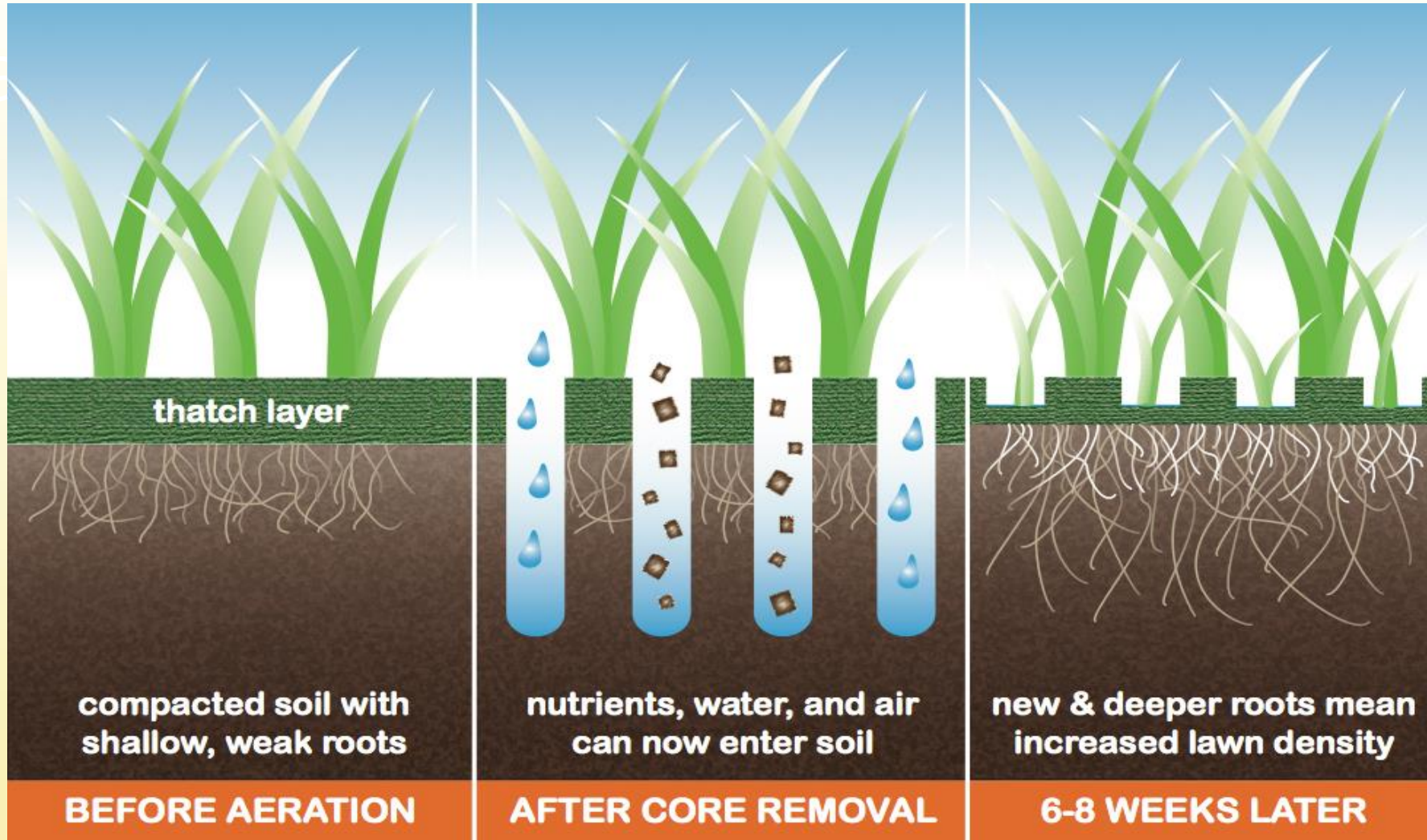
- Height matters
- Mow as high as you can stand it!
- Frequency, no more than necessary
- Don't remove more than 1/3 of the leaf
- Grasscycle

Grasscycling

- Recycle lawn clippings
- A natural source of nitrogen
- Reduces the need for fertilizer
- Enhances the organic content of the soil



Aeration



Core Aeration



THATCH



Why?

Too much Nitrogen or water

Dethatching

Dethatching Rake



Dethatching Machine

Dethatching Grandchildren

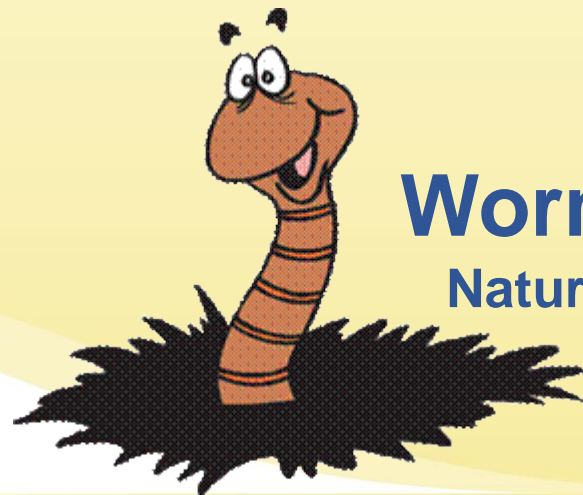


Hint: Don't tell Grandpa you're bored!

Top Dressing



Compost



Worm Castings

Natures Super Poop!

Fertilizer

Read the label



N - P - K

**Percentages of
Nitrogen
Phosphorus
Potassium**

Look for a 2-1-1 ratio


**Reconsider formulas including
herbicides and pesticides**

Fertilizers carry 3 numbers representing the following:




NITROGEN
greens up plants
JUST THINK:
↑ UP ↑
NITROGEN

The diagram shows a small seedling with two green leaves and a yellow flower bud, growing upwards from a mound of brown soil. Below the soil is a green bar with the word 'NITROGEN'. Below that is a light tan box with the text 'greens up plants' and 'JUST THINK: ↑ UP ↑'. At the bottom is another green bar with the word 'NITROGEN'.



PHOSPHORUS
reaches down to the roots
↓ DOWN ↓
PHOSPHORUS

The diagram shows a seedling with four green leaves and two yellow flowers, with its roots extending downwards into the soil. Below the soil is a green bar with the word 'PHOSPHORUS'. Below that is a light tan box with the text 'reaches down to the roots' and '↓ DOWN ↓'. At the bottom is another green bar with the word 'PHOSPHORUS'.



POTASSIUM
promotes all around wellbeing
← ALL AROUND →
POTASSIUM

The diagram shows a mature plant with six green leaves and two yellow flowers, with a well-developed root system. Below the soil is a green bar with the word 'POTASSIUM'. Below that is a light tan box with the text 'promotes all around wellbeing' and '← ALL AROUND →'. At the bottom is another green bar with the word 'POTASSIUM'.

Fertilizer Tips

• Do's

- Use organic
- Read the label
- Apply accordingly
- Measure your lawn
- Slow Release
- Balanced formula
 - About 2-1-1 ratio

• Don'ts

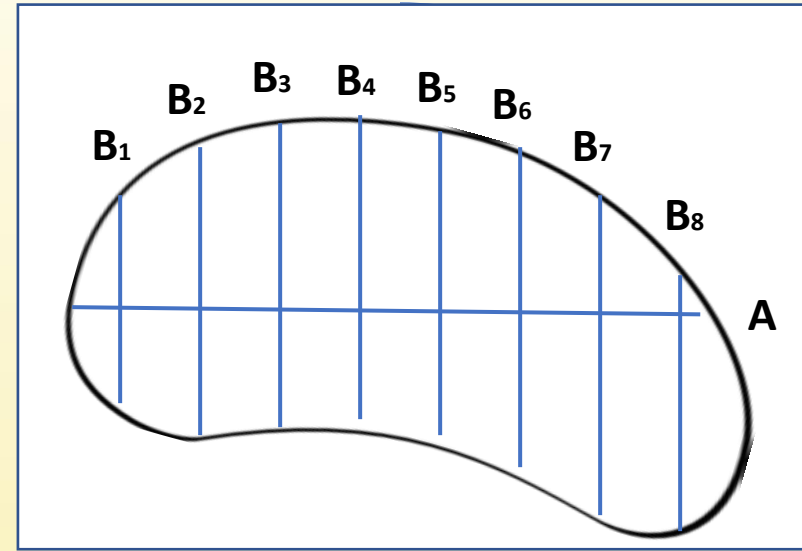
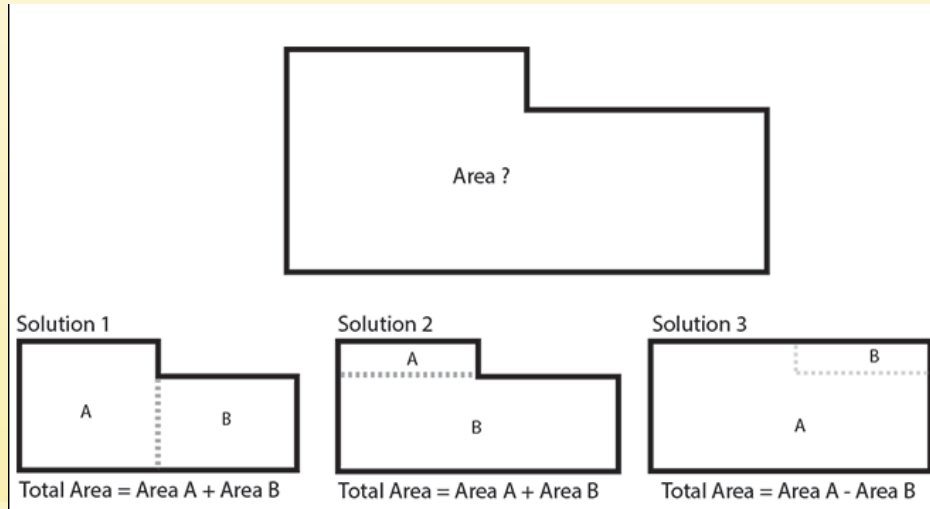
- Over fertilize
 - Frequency
 - Amount
- Use water soluble
- Use high Nitrogen
 - Ammonia Sulfate

Fertilizer Application Rates

Need weight and area

Square Areas

Length X Width
Divide area into smaller squares
then add them up



Odd Shaped Areas

Longest Horizontal Line x Average of Perpendicular Lines

$$A \times \left(\frac{B_1 + B_2 + B_3 + B_4 + B_5 + B_6 + B_7 + B_8}{8} \right)$$

Watering

The most common question

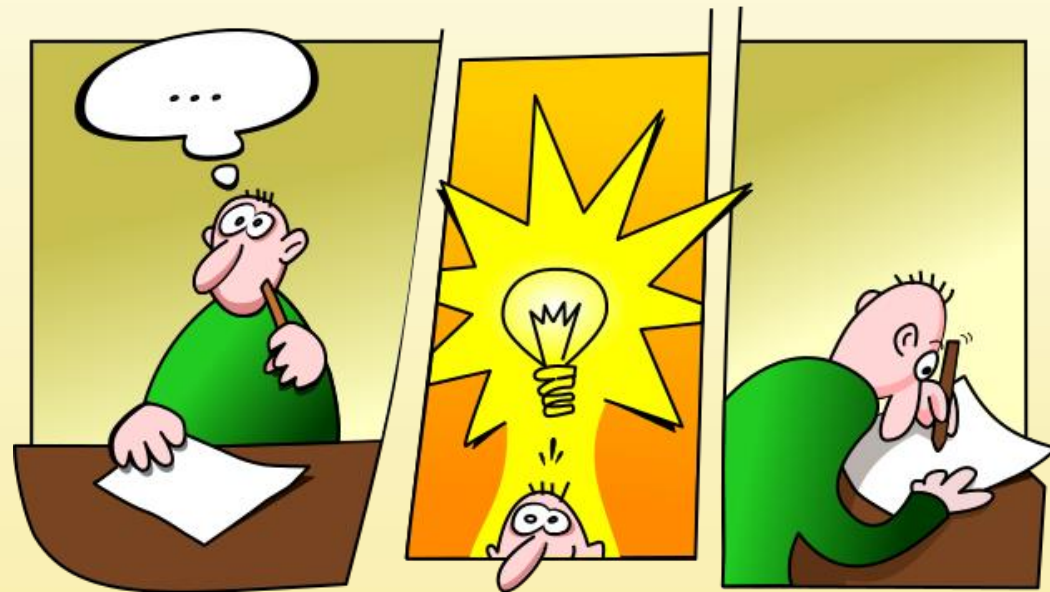
How long should I water?

The simple answer

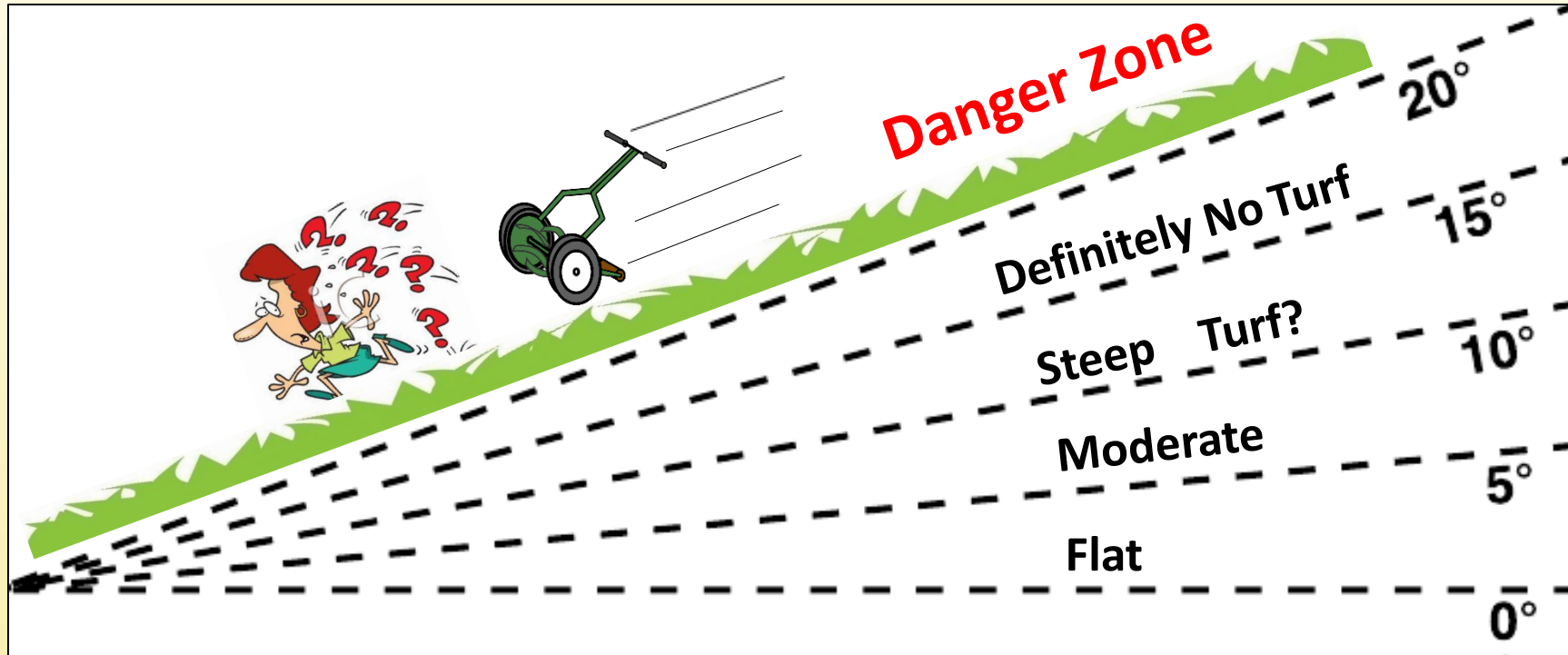
Just long enough!

Factors to Landscape Water Needs

- Plant Material
- Irrigation Equipment
- Sun Exposure
- Soil Type
- Slope



Slopes



How WELL do you water?

How LONG is relative to your irrigation system and landscape





Watered long or watered well?

Watering Well

- How often
- How long
 - Stop before run-off
 - Check the soil moisture
 - After the root zone dries out
 - NOT just the surface
- Early morning
 - Reduces evaporation & wind drift
- Cycle & Soak
 - Watering sessions 1 – 2 hours apart
 - Promotes deeper root growth

Cycle and Soak

- Water short of runoff
- Allow to soak in for 1 – 2 hours
- Water again
- Repeat as necessary



Check the Soil Moisture

How?

Soil Probes



Alternatives to Traditional Turf

Native Mow Free



Alternatives to Traditional Turf

UC Verde Buffalograss



UC Verde Buffalograss
A Grass that Drinks Responsibly

Alternatives to Traditional Turf



Kurapia

Lipia nodiflora



Alternatives to Traditional Turf

Carex Pansa

Pacific Dune Sedge



Alternatives to Traditional Turf

Agrostis Pallens

Native Bentgrass



QUESTIONS ?

